

previously noted, the Park invention does not allow a continuous mode of mass analysis and results in difficult-to-interpret data. It is unclear what the Examiner was referring to when the Examiner states that Park disclosed a data acquisition and analysis unit that acquires data from the sampling unit as none appeared in the description. In fact, the Examiner conceded that Park does not teach a carrying means or sampling system. In fact, the Examiner proposed overcoming that distinction by combining Park with McLoughlin. However, the method described by Park teaches away from a combination that would be mobile and deployed in the environment as it provides for another stage and method of analysis.

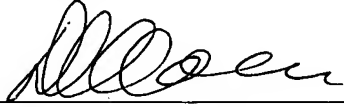
McLoughlin is directed to a field mobile mass spectrometer and has limitations not found in Applicant's invention. McLoughlin is directed to resolving interface issues with specimen collection and transportation, and not the means of analysis depicted in Applicant's invention.

In sum, combining Park with McLoughlin does not result in Applicant's invention and Parks and McLoughlin, with their foci being on separate problems, teach away from their combination.

Finally, the Examiner also cited Park (US Pat. No. 6,661,001) in the conclusion section of the response stating that it discloses a method and apparatus for analyzing ions by TOF in which deflectors are used as gates to manipulate split ion beams. It is unclear how the Examiner intended to relate Park '001 to the present invention. Clarification is requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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